URBAN DISTRICT OF AMBLESIDE.

MINISTRY OF
LIBRA

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1925.

1926.

"HERALD" PRINTING WORKS, AMBLESIDE.

URBAN DISTRICT OF AMBLESIDE.

MINISTRY OF HE
LIBRAR

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1925.

1926.

"HERALD" PRINTING WORKS, AMBLESIDE.

URBAN DISTRICT OF AMBLESIDE.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council of Ambleside.

Sir, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1925.

In accordance with instructions from the Ministry of Health this must be a Survey Report, and consequently more comprehensive than those presented to you during the previous four years, reviewing within the area—

(a) The measure of progress made in the improvement of the public health.

(b) The extent and character of the changes made in the public health services.

(c) Any further action of importance in the organisation or development of public health services which may be contemplated or considered desirable.

I much appreciate the courtesy with which you have received any advice tendered to you in the past, and also the careful consideration you have always given to any suggestions offered to you.

To your Sanitary Inspector I would express my thanks for all the help he has given to me freely at all times; without such, public health work could never prosper. I am grateful also to very many of my professional colleagues, who have given me much assistance, and upon whose co-operation I can always rely.

I have the honour to be,
Sir, Ladies, and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
W. BARON COCKILL,
Medical Officer of Health,
Westmorland Combined Districts.

March 15th, 1926.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
For the Year ended December, 1925.

Area (acres)...	4,425
Population (census 1921)	2,876
Population estimated 1925	2,272
Number of inhabited houses (census 1921)	535
Number of families or separate occupiers (census 1921) ...	540
Rateable Value	£23,794
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£92

Ambleside is beautifully situated between Windermere and Rydal Lake; it is surrounded by lofty hills of slate rock, whose round-topped ridges, covered with moorland grass, afford good land for grazing purposes. The climate is mild. The District is well drained by the River Rothay.

It is a residential and holiday resort, and has no large industries.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Births (legitimate)	19 ...	15 ...	34
,, (illegitimate)	— ...	— ...	
Birth Rate		14.96	
Deaths			22
Death Rate		9.68	

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth:—

From Sepsis	Nil.
From other causes	Nil.

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 births:—

Legitimate, 29 Illegitimate, nil. Total, 29.

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil.
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	Nil.
,, ,, Diarrhœa (under 2 years) ...	Nil.

Poor Law Outdoor Relief has been administered to nineteen persons at a cost of £241.

There has been no unusual or excessive mortality during the year, nor has there been any special noteworthy cause of sickness or invalidity in the District.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Hospital.	Situation.	Accommodation.
Tuberculosis	Meathop, Grange-over-Sands ...	150 beds
Maternity	Westmorland County Hospital ...	6 beds
Children	Nil. ...	—

Smallpox ...	... Woodside, near Kendal ...	50 beds
Fever	... The Sanatorium, Kendal ...	46 beds
Ethel Hedley Hospital School (Orthopædic) ...	Calgarth, Windermere ...	30 beds
Venereal Disease	... North Lonsdale Hospital, Barrow-in-Furness ...	—

The Westmorland County Hospital, Kendal, contains 50 beds, available for all Non-infectious, Medical, Surgical and abnormal Midwifery cases. A new Maternity Ward was opened in 1924. It is supported by voluntary contributions.

Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers, etc. :—

St. Monica's Maternity Home, Kendal, under the control of the Carlisle Diocesan Maternity Committee.

Ambulance Facilities :—

(a) Infectious cases—Removed by the Kendal Ambulance.
(b) Non-infectious cases—St. John Ambulance Brigade.

Clinics and Treatment Centres :—

Tuberculosis Dispensary at Kendal.
Travelling School, Dental Clinic.

Staff.

Name.	Qualification.	Office.	Whole or part time.	Other Offices.	Salaries contributed under P.H.A. or Exchequer Grants.
W. B. Cockill	M.D., etc. D.P.H.	M.O.H.	Part	M.O.H. Westmorland Combined Districts	Yes
E. Dunbavand	A.M.I.C.E. M.R.San.I.	Sanitary Inspector	Part	Surveyor	Yes

Professional Nursing in the Home :—

(a) General ... ... District Nursing Association.
(b) Infectious Diseases, e.g. Measles, etc. ... ,, ,, ,,

District Nursing Associations are voluntary organisations receiving grants in aid from the County Council.

Midwives.—There are no practising midwives.

Chemical Work :—Is under the supervision of the County Council.

Legislation in Force :—

Adoptive Acts.	Name.	Adopted.
Sanitary Clauses Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890.		1891
Sanitary Clauses Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907.		1908
Public Health Act, 1925, Sections 2-5, with the exception of those sections which are awaiting the sanction of the Minister	... ...	1925

Byelaws.

New Streets and Buildings	1887 & 1924
Slaughterhouses	1887
Prevention of Nuisances	1887
Pleasure Grounds	1887 & 1902

Water.—An abundant, constant supply of water of exceptional pure quality is obtained locally from Scandale Beck, and is laid on to all dwellings except in the isolated houses at considerable distance from the services. These few depend upon adjacent springs for their drinking supply.

In every instance the water is of excellent quality, being soft, free from all contamination and having no apparent effect upon lead or other pipes and fittings.

Rivers and Streams.—No complaints of pollution have been received.

Drainage and Sewerage.—Separate systems are in operation, although a considerable quantity of surface water from the old property finds its way into the sewers and keeps them well flushed.

The Sewage Disposal Works are of modern construction, where the screens and mechanical filters, recently completely overhauled, are quite adequate for satisfactorily dealing with the whole of the sewage of the area.

Closet Accommodation.—Fourteen privies have been converted to water closets since the year 1920. The accommodation at present is as follows :—

Houses with W.C.'s connected to sewers ...	549
,, ,, ,, cesspools ...	28
,, ,, privies ,, ,, ...	14
,, ,, ,, or pails connected to sewers .	24
Total ...	615

Scavenging.—The scavenging of the area is efficiently done by the Local Authority by direct labour. The refuse is tipped at the sewage works and covered with a layer of soil.

All ashpits and ashbins are thoroughly disinfected at the time of emptying.

Fourteen ashbins have been substituted for ashpits.

Sanitary Inspection of Area.—Systematic frequent inspections are made of all the district, and the aftermentioned defects have been noted and remedied :—

Defective drains	11
,, W.C.'s	8
,, ashpits	38
,, ashbins	21
,, waterspouts	3
,, water supplies	2
,, gullies	5
,, yard paving	2
Accumulations of manure	4
Damp walls	4
Total ...	98

It was not necessary to issue any statutory notices.

Smoke Abatement.—No nuisance has arisen.

Premises and Occupations which can be Controlled by Byelaws and Regulations.—Slaughterhouses, four in number, are periodically visited, and have been found in a very satisfactory condition. The requirements of the 1924 Acts are rigidly enforced.

No action has been necessary in the case of houses let in lodgings.

Underground sleeping quarters and offensive trades are non-existent.

Schools.—The sanitation and water supply of the public elementary schools within the area are very satisfactory.

HOUSING.

The housing conditions in this area are well above the average for the country, due probably to its residential population and the absence of the industrial worker.

A small amount of housing congestion occurs, due in most instances to the marriage of the adult members of families, who, owing to the expense of separate homes, continue to congregate under the parental roof.

It is exceedingly problematical whether in this area anything can be done to ease these conditions, on account of the heavy cost of building not permitting an economical rental within the means of these families.

The standard of construction of dwellings in this area, having regard to the age of the buildings, is good; although a large number of buildings in the old village are nearing the end of their term of usefulness.

The property owners are disposed in their own interests to welcome the periodical inspections by the Sanitary Inspector, as by this means they ascertain defects which they would otherwise have to remedy after considerable damage had occurred. A considerable amount of expense is usually saved by early attention.

The usual absence of co-operation between the tenants and landlords is apparent, resulting in the rapid deterioration of the properties. The tenants are very reluctant to do any repairs, however small.

In three instances a landlord supplied keys to tenants for the purpose of excluding "casuals" from the W.C.'s attached to their houses. All the tenants refused to avail themselves of his offer and prefer to allow passers-by to frequent these conveniences. The cost of upkeep due to usage by unauthorised persons devolves upon the landlord, who has very much exceeded his obligations under the Rent Act.

There are a few dwellings within the area that might be scheduled "Insanitary Areas," but their extent is too much limited to come under that which warrants application to the Ministry for aid.

Other than previously stated not any action has been deemed necessary under the various sub-heads of this Section——"Housing."

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

Number of new houses erected during the year ... (Four houses are in course of erection by private enterprise.)	Nil.
1.—Unfit Dwelling-houses :—	
Inspection.—(1) Total number of Dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts	62
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Inspection of District Regulations, 1910, or Housing Consol. Regulations, 1925	Nil.
(3) Number of Dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil.
(4) Number of Dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	6
2.—Remedy of defects without service of formal notice :—	
Number of Dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	6
3.—Action under Statutory Powers	Nil.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk.—The quality of the milk retailed in this area is fair; the distribution of the milk being quite satisfactory.

Frequent inspections are made of all premises, plant and receptacles in order to ascertain their condition and cleanliness.

No action was considered necessary with regard to Tubercular cows and milk.

No licences were granted for the "sale of milk under special designations."

Meat.—The Regulations governing the preparation and sale of meat are rigidly enforced. All premises are regularly inspected, and in no instance was doubtful meat detected. The vehicles and meat hawking butchers are subjected to careful inspections.

This Authority has not any public abattoirs.

The private slaughterhouses licensed by this Authority conform to the requirements of the Acts, and are regularly inspected. Their condition is good.

The number of licensed slaughterhouses in this area is as follows:—

	In 1920.	Jan., 1925.	Dec., 1925.
Licensed	2	3	4
Registered	—	—	—
	2	3	4

Other Foods.—The sanitary condition of the various premises upon which foodstuffs are prepared, stored or retailed is quite satisfactory. Numerous inspections made at irregular intervals in order to detect defections and any relaxations in the observance of the Regulations, proved abortive.

The sanitary accommodation for workers and employees is satisfactory.

All factories, workshops and workplaces are subject to frequent inspections, at which slight sanitary defects are immediately remedied upon verbal request.

No case of food poisoning has occurred.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Since 1920 there have been four cases of Diphtheria and six cases of Scarlet Fever.

Diphtheria antitoxin is issued free for the treatment of all necessitous cases, excepting patients under the National Health Insurance Act; also for both necessitous and insured persons for prophylactic purposes.

One fatal case of Encephalitis Lethargica occurred in 1923.

Notifications under the Regulations of 7th January, 1919, have not been useful.

The Combined Districts of Westmorland have provided laboratories at Kendal, to which any practitioner may send specimens for examination. Sputum is also examined at Meathop Sanatorium. The following have been done for the Urban District of Ambleside :—

Enteric Fever	3
Organisms.....	1
Diphtheria	2
Total ...	6

No use has been made of the Schick and Dick tests, nor have any vaccinations been performed by the Medical Officer of Health. Close liaison with the School Medical Officer exists, so that school intimations of disease are freely available.

The Influenza mortality is 0.6 per 1,000 of population.

Disinfection with formalin is carried out after all infectious cases.

No facilities exist for disinfestation.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING 1925.

Disease	Total	1	2	15	20	35	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths	15
Pneumonia	6	1	1	2	1	1	—	1	1

TUBERCULOSIS.

There were five new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified, all occurring in males aged respectively 19, 21, 30, 63, and 73 years, with no deaths.

Notification of Tuberculosis is uniformly carried out.

It has not been necessary to take any action under Article 3, P. H. (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, nor under Section 62, P. H. Act, 1925.

Tuberculosis, Venereal Disease and Child Welfare are under the supervision of the County Council.

No cases of Puerperal Fever, Ophthalmia Neonatorium, or Poliomyelitis have occurred.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Sixty-five inspections were made and the following defects discovered and remedied on request :—

Want of cleanliness	6
Want of ventilation	1
Unsuitable sanitary accommodation	3
Total ...	10

No notices were served.

LAKES
RDC